23rd September 1955]

* 2395 *Q.*—Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the main grounds on which the Government restrict the movement of the inhabitants of the mainland into and out of the Laccadive group of islands;

(*b*) whether the Government have appointed any Committee to go into the question of modifying the laws of the islands in conformity with the Indian Constitution;

(*c*) whether there are any Government buildings in these islands on which the Union Jack (British flag) still flies;

(*d*) whether the Government are now exercising any monopolist right to purchase coconut and allied products from the islands and to sell them rice at prices fixed by the Government;

(*e*) whether the amins of the islands are appointed on hereditary principle; and

(*f*) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on account of the administration of these islands?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) The character and antecedents of the individuals. There are no restrictions on the movement of the mainlanders out of the islands;

(*b*) No, Sir, there is no need for it.

(*c*) No, Sir.

(*d*) In the islands of the Laccadive group, excluding Minicoy, the purchase and disposal of the coir produced is a monopoly of the Government. The islanders are supplied with rice in exchange for the coir, at rates fixed by the Government.

(*e*) No, Sir.

(*f*) The total expenditure incurred in 1953–54 was rupees 44,872–11–8.

Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: With regard to the restrictions put on the movement of people from the mainland to the islands, the Hon. Minister was pleased to state there were no such restrictions. But, may I know whether the Government have received any complaint during the last General Election time about certain restrictions placed by the district officials on certain political parties in Malabar?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN: Every case has been examined on its own merits and orders are passed.

* 2396 *Q.*—Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred as steamer